

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated October 23, 2006. Applicant has filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) together with this Amendment. Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 21-31 are currently pending. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, and 9-10 have been amended. Claims 6 and 11-20 have been canceled without prejudice to further prosecute these claims and their subject matter. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8 were rejected over 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as unpatentable over Yagi (US 6,013,573). Claim 7 was rejected over 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Yagi in view of Cleeves (US 5,830,804). Claim 9 was rejected over 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Yagi in view of JP-5357978. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has not rewritten claim 10 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include certain subject matter similar to some of the subject matter recited in previous claim 10. Claim 1, as amended, recites in part forming “a second layer comprising a resin on the substrate” and “positioning a slider on the second layer after the removing the patterned photoresist layer and after the removing the sacrificial layer.” The language of claim 1 has also been amended for clarity with regards to the specification, for example, at page 10. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5 and 7-10, as amended, are not described or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claim 1 and dependent claims 2-5 and 7-9 should be withdrawn.

New claims 21-31 have been added. It is believed that no new matter has been entered. Support for the claims may be found in the specification, for example at pages 6-10.

The Final Office Action also included various comments concerning the art and non-patentability of features in various of the pending claims. Applicant does not concede that the Examiner’s characterizations of the cited references and application to the claims are proper. Any of the Examiner’s comments not directly addressed above are deemed moot at this time in view of this response. Applicant reserves the right to further explain differences between the cited references and the claims at a later time.

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. If, for any reason, the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner requested to telephone the undersigned to discuss the steps necessary to place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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